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Flavophlebia sphaerospora, a new corticoid species from India

Maninder Kaur, Avneet P. Singh * & G.S. Dhingra

Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala 147002, India
*Correspondence to: avneetbot@*gmail.com

Abstract — *Flavophlebia sphaerospora* sp. nov. is described from Himachal Pradesh, India.
Key words — *Basidiomycota*, Northwestern Himalaya, Narkanda

During the fungal forays conducted during August 2012 in the Hattu Peak area, Narkanda, district Shimla of Himachal Pradesh, India, Maninder and Avneet collected a fungus on decaying wood of *Cedrus deodara* in a mixed forest. After comparison of macroscopic and microscopic characters (Parmasto 1968, Hjortstam & Larsson 1977, Bernicchia & Gorjón 2010, Mycobank 2013) we concluded that the material represented the monotypic genus *Flavophlebia* but differed from *F. sulfureoisabellina* (Litsch.) K.H. Larss. & Hjortstam.

Flavophlebia sphaerospora Man. Kaur, Avneet P. Singh & Dhingra, **sp. nov.** Plate 1
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Differs from *Flavophlebia sulfureoisabellina* by its denser subiculum and its spherical to subspherical basidiospores.

Type: India, Himachal Pradesh: Shimla, Narkanda, on way to Hattu Peak, on the bark of decaying wood of *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb. ex D. Don) G. Don, 19 August 2012, Maninder Kaur & Avneet 5166 (PUN, **holotype**).

Etymology: The epithet refers to the shape of the basidiospores.

Basidiocarp resupinate, adnate, effused, ceraceous, ≤180 µm thick in section; hymenial surface smooth, grayish green to grayish yellow to grayish orange; margins thinning, paler concolorous, to indeterminate. Hyphal system monomitic; generative hyphae branched, septate, clamped; basal hyphae ≤3.3 µm wide, more or less parallel to the substrate, thick-walled, forming a dense subiculum; subhymenial hyphae ≤2.7 µm wide, vertical, densely united.

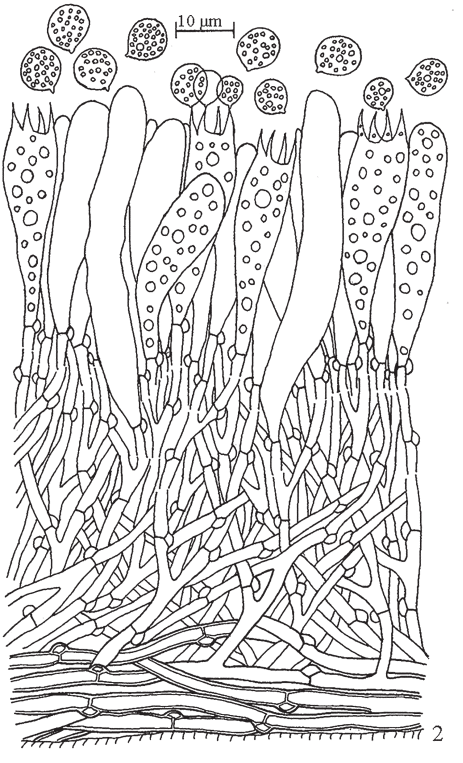

Plate 1. *Flavophlebia sphaerospora* (holotype). 1. Basidiocarp showing hymenial surface. 2. Vertical section through basidiocarp showing hyphae, basidia, cystidia and basidiospores.

Cystidia 45–60 × 8–8.5 µm, cylindrical, flexuous, thin-walled, with basal clamp. Basidia 28–36 × 8.5–10 µm, clavate, somewhat stalked, 4-sterigmate, with basal clamp, filled with oily contents; sterigmata ≤6.0 µm long. Basidiospores 6.6–8.0 µm in diameter, spherical to subspherical with subapical apiculus reminding of *Radulomyces confluens* (Fr.) M.P. Christ., with numerous oil-droplets, thin- to somewhat thick-walled, inamyloid, somewhat cyanophilous.

Remarks— Both *Flavophlebia sphaerospora* and *F. sulfureoisabellina* occur on the bark of coniferous trees and have a similar greenish-yellowish colour, but *F. sulfureoisabellina* differs in having a comparatively loose subiculum, ellipsoid to subglobose basidiospores, and slightly narrower basidia.

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